

Towson University's Master of Arts (MAT) in Special Education for Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) Paraprofessionals Cohort 5



Overview This hybrid program is intended for current **Howard County Paraprofessionals** or **Provisional Teachers** who hold an undergraduate degree in a field outside of education but are looking to earn their teaching degree. This is a master's degree program that also leads to eligibility for initial teacher certification in the state of Maryland. Graduates are eligible for teacher certification in the special education tracks of *infant/primary, elementary/middle, or secondary/adult*. Classes are to be held in the evenings and will consist of a blend of virtual (online) and face to face (in Howard County school) environments. The final two semesters of the program require internships in special education that can be completed in the candidates' current school assignment and includes a standardized performance assessment, edTPA.

Program Advantages

This three-year program is designed to support current **HCPSS Paraprofessionals** in gaining their certification in special education. Along with the required Praxis II tests, completion of this program meets the requirements for initial certification in special education. Designed to accommodate working professionals, this program includes coursework with a strong emphasis on inclusive practice, consultation and collaboration, effective and universally designed instruction through a cross-categorical disability approach. This program has been nationally accredited by both national and state accrediting bodies. Past MAT graduates in special education have a long history of high performance, earning 100% passage rate on the Special Education Praxis and 100% employment rate in special education following graduation. Employees eligible for reimbursement will have tuition reduced and billed directly to HCPSS.

Admission Requirements

Applicants who meet the program requirements will be admitted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals interested in this program are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. After obtaining a transcript analysis from the MAT office, application information will be provided. The application deadline is August 15, but space may be limited and some requirements for the application, such as official transcripts and letters of recommendation, may take longer than applicants anticipate. **Early applications are preferred.**

Tentative Program of Study
Infant/Primary & Elementary/Middle Tracks

Fall 2025

SPED 637 Inclusion for the Classroom Teacher (3)
EDUC 730 Principles of Learning, Development, and Diversity (3)

Spring 2026

SPED 632 Assessment Issues for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students (3)
SPED 605 Working with Families of SWD (3)

Summer 2026

EDUC 717 Children's Literature and Other Materials for Teaching Reading (3) (MSDE required reading course)

Fall 2026

SPED 607 Curriculum and Methods of Classroom Management for SWD (3)
SPED 646 Using Tech. to Differentiate Instruction (3)

Spring 2027

SPED 641 Curriculum and Methods of Instruction for SWD (3)
SPED 525 Formal Tests and Measurements for Students with Disabilities (SWD)/K-12 (3)

Summer 2027

ECED 618/ELED 611 Principles and Processes of Language and Literacy (3) (MSDE required reading course)

Fall 2027

ECED 623/EDUC 787 Literacy Methods (MSDE Required Reading Course)
EDUC 797 Internship I with Seminar (3)

Spring 2028

ECED 621/ELED 621 Literacy Assessment (MSDE Required Reading Course)
EDUC 798 Internship II with Seminar (6)

Tentative Program of Study
Secondary Track

Fall 2025

SPED 637 Inclusion for the Classroom Teacher (3)
EDUC 730 Principles of Learning, Development, and Diversity (3)

Spring 2026

SPED 601 Curriculum and Methods for Secondary Transition (3)
SPED 605 Working with Families of SWD (3)

Fall 2026

SPED 607 Curriculum and Methods of Classroom Management for SWD (3)
SPED 646 Using Tech. to Differentiate Instruction (3)

January 2027

SPED 670 Remedial Literacy Practices (3)

Spring 2027

SPED 641 Curriculum and Methods of Instruction for SWD (3)
SPED 525 Formal Tests and Measurements for Students with Disabilities (SWD)/K-12 (3)

Fall 2027

REED 602 Teaching Reading: Theory and Practice (3) (MSDE Required Reading Course)
EDUC 797 Internship I with Seminar (3)

Spring 2028

SCED 561 Teaching Reading in the Secondary Content Areas (3) (MSDE Required Reading Course)
EDUC 798 Internship II with Seminar (6)

Interested? Send an email to:

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GRADUATE STUDIES
Department of Special Education